

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
SAVANNAH DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 )  
 v. ) CR: 421-171  
 )  
 RASHEEN DYSHAWN STEPHENS )

## PLEA AGREEMENT

Defendant Rasheen Dyshawn Stephens, represented by his counsel Steven Woodward, and the United States of America, represented by Assistant United States Attorney Chris Howard, have reached a plea agreement in this case. The terms and conditions of that agreement are as follows.

1. Guilty Plea

Defendant agrees to enter a plea of guilty to Count One of the Indictment, which charges a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1).

## 2. Elements and Factual Basis

The elements necessary to prove the offense charged in Count One are (1) that Defendant knowingly possessed a firearm in or affecting commerce; and (2) that, before possessing the firearm, Defendant knew he had been convicted of a felony, that is, a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year.

Defendant agrees that he is, in fact, guilty of this offense. He agrees to the accuracy of the following facts, which satisfy each of the offense's required elements: on or about June 7, 2021, in Chatham County, within the Southern District of Georgia, Defendant, knowing he had been convicted of a crime punishable by

imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, did knowingly possess, in and affecting commerce, a firearm, to wit, a Ruger P95 9-millimeter pistol, which had been transported in interstate and foreign commerce. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1).

3. Possible Sentence

Defendant's guilty plea will subject him to the following maximum possible sentence: 10 years' imprisonment, 3 years' supervised release, a \$250,000 fine, such restitution as may be ordered by the Court, and forfeiture of all forfeitable assets. The Court additionally must impose a \$100 special assessment per count of conviction.

4. No Promised Sentence

No one has promised Defendant that the Court will impose any particular sentence or a sentence within any particular range. The Court is not bound by any estimate of sentence given or recommendations made by Defendant's counsel, the government, the U.S. Probation Office, or anyone else. The Court may impose a sentence up to the statutory maximum. Defendant will not be allowed to withdraw his plea of guilty if he receives a more severe sentence than he expects.

5. Court's Use of Sentencing Guidelines

The Court is obligated to use the United States Sentencing Guidelines to calculate the applicable guideline range for Defendant's offense. The Sentencing Guidelines are advisory; the Court is not required to impose a sentence within the range those Guidelines suggest. The Court will consider that range, possible

departures under the Sentencing Guidelines, and other sentencing factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), in determining the Defendant's sentence. The Sentencing Guidelines are based on all of Defendant's relevant conduct, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3, not just the conduct underlying the particular Count to which Defendant is pleading guilty.

6. Agreements Regarding Sentencing Guidelines

a. Use of Information

Nothing in this agreement precludes the government from providing full and accurate information to the Court and U.S. Probation Office for use in calculating the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range.

b. Acceptance of Responsibility

If the Court determines that Defendant qualifies for an adjustment under U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a), and the offense level prior to operation of § 3E1.1(a) is 16 or greater, the government will move for an additional one-level reduction in offense level pursuant to Section 3E1.1(b) based on Defendant's timely notification of his intention to enter a guilty plea.

c. Recommendations Concerning U.S.S.G. § 2K2.1

The government agrees that it will not recommend the application of U.S.S.G. § 2K2.1(b)(6) or (c).

d. Recommendation Regarding Variance and Departure

The government agrees that it will not request an upward departure, upward variance, or a sentence above the advisory guideline range.

7. Abandonment of Property

Defendant waives and abandons his interest in any property that may have been seized in connection with this case, including but not limited to the firearm, namely a Ruger P95 9-millimeter pistol listed in Count One of the Indictment, and ammunition recovered in this case.

8. Financial Obligations and Agreements

a. Restitution

The amount of restitution ordered by the Court shall include restitution for the full loss caused by Defendant's total criminal conduct. Restitution is not limited to the specific counts to which Defendant is pleading guilty. Any restitution judgment is intended to and will survive Defendant, notwithstanding the abatement of any underlying criminal conviction.

b. Special Assessment

Defendant agrees to pay a special assessment in the amount of \$100, payable to the Clerk of the United States District Court, which shall be due immediately at the time of sentencing.

9. Waivers

a. FOIA and Privacy Act Waiver

Defendant waives all rights, whether asserted directly or through a representative, to request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any record pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case under the

authority of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, or the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, and all subsequent amendments thereto.

b. Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(f) and Fed. R. Evid. 410 Waiver

Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence ordinarily limit the admissibility of statements made by a defendant during the course of plea discussions or plea proceedings. Defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives the protections of these rules. If Defendant fails to plead guilty, or his plea of guilty is later withdrawn, all of Defendant's statements in connection with this plea, and any leads derived therefrom, shall be admissible for any and all purposes.

10. Defendant's Rights

Defendant has the right to be represented by counsel, and if necessary have the court appoint counsel, at trial and at every other critical stage of the proceeding. Defendant possesses a number of rights which he will waive by pleading guilty, including: the right to plead not guilty, or having already so pleaded, to persist in that plea; the right to a jury trial; and the right at trial to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, to be protected from compelled self-incrimination, to testify and present evidence, and to compel the attendance of witnesses.

11. Satisfaction with Counsel

Defendant has had the benefit of legal counsel in negotiating this agreement. Defendant believes that his attorney has represented him faithfully, skillfully, and

diligently, and he is completely satisfied with the legal advice given and the work performed by his attorney.

12. Breach of Plea Agreement

If Defendant fails to plead guilty, withdraws or attempts to withdraw his guilty plea, commits any new criminal conduct following the execution of this agreement, or otherwise breaches this agreement, the government is released from all of its agreements regarding Defendant's sentence, including any agreements regarding the calculation of Defendant's advisory Sentencing Guidelines. In addition, the government may declare the plea agreement null and void, reinstate any counts that may have been dismissed pursuant to the plea agreement, and/or file new charges against Defendant that might otherwise be barred by this plea agreement. Defendant waives any statute-of-limitations or speedy trial defense to prosecutions reinstated or commenced under this paragraph.

13. Entire Agreement


This agreement contains the entire agreement between the government and Defendant.

DAVID H. ESTES  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karl I. Knoche  
Chief, Criminal Division

1-4-22  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Howard  
Assistant United States Attorney

I have read and carefully reviewed this agreement with my attorney. I understand each provision of this agreement, and I voluntarily agree to it. I hereby stipulate that the factual basis set out therein is true and accurate in every respect.

1/3/22  
Date

Rasheen Stephens  
Defendant Rasheen Dyshawn Stephens

I have fully explained to Defendant all of his rights, and I have carefully reviewed each and every part of this agreement with him. I believe that he fully and completely understands it, and that his decision to enter into this agreement is an informed, intelligent, and voluntary one.

1/3/22  
Date

Steven Woodward  
Defendant's Attorney, Steven Woodward

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
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V.

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ORDER

The aforesaid Plea Agreement, having been considered by the Court in conjunction with the interrogation by the Court of the defendant and the defendant's attorney at a hearing on the defendant's motion to change his plea and the Court finding that the plea of guilty is made freely, voluntarily and knowingly, it is thereupon,

ORDERED that the plea of guilty by defendant be, and it is, hereby accepted and the foregoing Plea Agreement be, and it is, hereby ratified and confirmed.

This 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022.

HON. WILLIAM T. MOORE, JR.  
JUDGE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA